

Koenings' Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #20

December 15, 2020

Dear Reeded Edge Half Collector:

Most of you indicated an interest in Reeded Edge Halves when you purchased my book "REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS 1836 TO 1839, R-4 to R-8 DIE VARIETIES". Others were added to my list of interested collectors after I announced my "38 Most Common Die Marriages" would be emailed once a month, starting in August, 2019 at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago. I am now encouraging Liberty Seated Coin Club Members to join in the hunt.

My intention is to educate collectors further in the study of Reeded Edge Halves. I will continue to report such topics as follows:

1. The 38 Most Common Die Marriages (started August, 2019 on a monthly basis).
2. The results of recent auction sales of R-4 and rarer die marriages.
3. Have photos of interesting die stages.
4. Plan to have a 2nd Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census by November, 2021.

38 Most Common Die Marriages (continued)

In November 15, 2020's Newsletter #19, I presented information and photos on the 1837 GR-18 die marriage. Next on the list, is the 1837 GR-19 die marriage.

1837 GR-19

In my opinion, 1837 GR-19 is the **MOST IMPORTANT** of the 38 Most Common Die Marriages. Although 1837 GR-19 is rated as R-3 (301 to 400 known) in Dick Graham's "A Registry of Die Varieties of Reeded Edge Half Dollars, 1836-1839" it was the **ONLY** die marriage that he listed the Condition Census as "unknown".

My Census on Reeded Edge Halves, published in the November 2018 John Reich Journal had only 5 specimens reported by 4 collectors. The 5 coins were 64, 62, 62, 58 and 30. One might think because there are so many high grade specimens that it is common. However, Graham says "Die is very fatigued even on Early Die Stage coins". The main feature of the obverse is the fact that the 7 is slightly higher than 183 and evenly spaced. Graham also says that the coin has "Curved clash marks up from top of the chest about 1/3 way from neck". He also says that there is a "Build up in the junction of chest and base of neck".



1837 GR-19 NGC UNC Details Obverse

The above photo appears to be an Early Die Stage (EDS) of this tough die marriage. A few of the stars appear to be slightly stretched. The dentils appear to be complete. However it does have some clashing on Liberty's chest and there is build up in the junction of chest and base of neck.

Part of the problem with this die marriage is the fact that you have to have higher grade specimens in order to attribute the die variety. There are several Reeded Edge Half die marriages that have stretched stars.

Since 1837 GR-19 and 1837 GR-20 share the same reverse you will have to identify the reverse first and eliminate 1837 GR-20 since the 7 is much higher on GR-20 and there is a die line in curls above clasp on GR-20 that doesn't appear on GR-19. The reader would be wise to save this Newsletter #20 and compare it to next month's 1837 GR-20 that will appear in Newsletter #21.



1837 GR-19 NGC UNC Details Reverse with Circles

This is the first use of Reverse R in Graham's book. 1837 GR-20 is the 2nd use. Another reason this reverse is difficult to identify is the very thin die line up from the junction of the right corner of the shield and the right wing is difficult to see even on high grade coins (see large circle in above photo). Graham mentions a "squiggly die line and lump in upper leaf of center pair" (see 2 smaller circles above). The lump is easier to see than the squiggly line. For some strange reason, I can see the squiggly line and lump easier on the reverse of 1837 GR-20. Since my first Census in November 2018, I have found an additional specimen and my son has added one to his collection.

Die marriages 1837 GR-20 and GR-21 share the same obverse and are both more common than 1837 GR-19. They will be presented in Newsletters #21 and #22.

Recent Sales of R-4 and Rarer Coins

On December 3, 2020, David Kahn offered the 1839 GR-2 R-5+ coin shown below on eBay for \$350 or best offer. By December 4, 2020 the coin was sold.



1839 GR-2 PCGS VF Details Obverse (Courtesy of David Kahn)



1839 GR-2 PCGS VF Details Reverse (Courtesy of David Kahn)

This coin is easily identified by the die line in the dentils that starts over T2 in STATES and continues to A3 in AMERICA. In my opinion, this coin is the 7th rarest in the Reeded Edge Half series.

Additional Commentary

I invite readers of this Newsletter to provide me with pictures and information about your rare finds so I can feature them in a future Newsletter.

Again, If you have any comments about Reeded Edge Half dollars that I might include in future Reeded Edge Half Newsletters, please email me at bustcoin1@verizon.net or send them to:

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Riverside, CA 92516

JRCS

I strongly recommend that all collectors join JRCS. JRCS publishes its J R Journal normally about 3 times a year. There is so much you can learn from the many articles that are published, including New Discoveries, Census Information on early silver issues, mint processes, die stage information and more. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact W. David Perkins at wdperki@attglobal.net.

LSCC

I also strongly recommend that collectors interested in Liberty Seated Coins join LSCC. LSCC publishes its Gobrecht Journal 3 times a year by Bill Bugert. They also have their E-Gobrecht Monthly Newsletter that is published by Paul Kluth. Membership is just \$25 per year. Anyone interested may contact Jeff Ball at jeffballphoto@gmail.com.